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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—CONTINUED FROM SATURDAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

International Coinage—A New Plan.

From the N. Y. Times. Those of our readers who may have read the reprint in our columns of the various official documents, in respect to international coinage, including the report to the Department of State by Mr. S. B. Ruggles, the delegate from the United States to the "International Monetary Conference" at Paris in 1867, are doubtless aware of the following leading facts.

The totals of the gold coinages up to 1868 of the three principal coining nations of the world, were as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Country, Amount. France: \$1,292,220,814; Great Britain: 953,341,450; The United States: 845,594,591.

Total: \$3,091,156,855. Of the \$845,594,591 thus coined by the United States, there has remained in circulation not more than \$300,000,000. Owing to its needless and ill-considered weight, which exceeds by nearly 3.5 to 1 per cent. that of the coin of France, and by 2.6 to 1 that of the British coin, it cannot now be passed in Europe for its true value, but is incessantly re-minted in large amounts both in France and England.

To borrow the words of Mr. Ruggles, "the American eagle crosses the Atlantic only to descend into the melting pots of Paris and London."

These facts were duly exhibited at the Paris Conference, strengthened by the circumstance that all the burden of this recoinage, and of any discount or brokerage in Europe in changing our coin into foreign gold, practically fell upon the people of the United States, an owner and raiser of the coin. It became entirely evident that the evil could only be remedied by reducing the weight of our coin to that of the coin either of France or of England.

After full discussion, and in view of the fact that the gold coin of France was largely circulated among the continental nations, where it might circulate, side by side, with the coin of the United States, and that the amount coined by France much exceeded that of any other nation, it was thought to be not only just, but most conducive to the common welfare of the nineteen nations represented in the conference (embracing a population of 320,000,000) to adopt the French weight as the basis of a common international coin.

Since the adjournment of the Conference this monetary plan has been favorably received and formally agreed to by several of the Continental nations. The nations who had already carried it into effect were France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, Greece, and the Pontifical States, having an aggregate population of seventy-two millions. The addition since that time of Austria, Spain, Sweden, and Roumania will unite at least one hundred and thirty millions of the people of Europe in monetary concord.

In October last, at a formal meeting of the representatives of the Chambers of Commerce of all the important cities in Germany, it was decided by a nearly unanimous vote to recommend to the Government of the new Zollverein, embracing not only Prussia, but all its confederate States, with a population exceeding thirty-eight millions.

It seems that under a Monetary Convention in 1857, no longer in force, a new gold coin, called the "Convention's crown," was issued, containing in pure gold ten even metric grammes, equal in value to nearly six dollars of the existing coin of the United States.

This German plan, which proposes to undo all the work of the Paris Conference, is now urged on Congress in an elaborate report from Mr. E. B. Elliott, transmitted on the 9th of February, instant, to the House of Representatives at Washington by the Secretary of the Treasury. We do not learn, nor can we believe, that the plan has received his distinct approval. The House has ordered it to be printed, with numerous accompanying tables. Until we can more fully learn its contents, we shall defer any remarks on its merits.

Meanwhile the time of Congress must be too much occupied by the interesting measures and movements naturally attending the close of this present administration, to give to this more abstract subject of international coinage the careful attention which it deserves. In the order of precedence, it may be left to President Grant and a new Congress to see that the American Union does its proper share of duty in advancing this great fraternal measure of international reform—a work peculiarly appropriate to that era of "peace" which the incoming head of the Government has so emphatically and solemnly invoked.

their; and the people are ground down by oppressive taxes to support these burdensome establishments. They are defensible there on the score of public safety; but on what ground can they be defended here? The disbanding of our army would bring as much relief to the people as the extinction of half or two-thirds of our public debt. There has never been a time since we were an independent nation when we had so little need of an army, except for service against the Indians, as we have at present. We have a million of trained veterans engaged in the pursuits of peace. We have paid and pensioned them with such generous liberality, that any new call for their services would bring them thronging and swarming to our standards, with such alacrity that all our roads would be darkened by the multitudes. A ten days' call would bring together an army of a hundred thousand disciplined men at any place that might be appointed as a rendezvous. Foreign nations know this; the South knows it; and this sense of the prodigious forces which we can any day extemporize, is a pretty good guarantee that we shall have no occasion to call them out. It would be perfectly safe to dismiss every soldier except those employed against the Indians.

One of the best features of General Butler's plan is his proposal to reduce the number and the grades of the army officers. He says that seven millions a year may be saved by this means alone. He would have the expensive office of General abolished when General Grant vacates it; the almost as expensive office of Lieutenant-General as soon as General Sherman vacates that; and he would have three major-generals at the highest army officers, and a small number of brigadiers. This reduction is equally recommended by good sense and by economy. Why should we maintain a great hierarchy of officers suited to an unwieldy army of a million of men, when twenty or thirty thousand would be more soldiers than we need? If our officers are dismissed into civil life we should not thereby lose them, any more than we do our disbanded common soldiers. They will be ready at their country's call whenever she shall have need of them. But there is no probability that they will be again needed in this generation, and there is no chance that so many thousands should be supported by a people overburdened with debt and taxes.

We are happy to agree with General Butler for once, and give him the support of our earnest but perfectly idle wishes, in his perfectly idle, even if earnest, project of reform. With the Republican party in power we expect nothing valuable in the way of retrenchment, and attach no importance to the Democratic proposals of individual members of the party.

The New President's Salary.

From the N. Y. World. In the early part of the winter the Times made ground in favor of raising the salary of the new President to one hundred thousand dollars, and it kept calling attention to the subject by a constant and a noisy advocacy. It claimed at the time that its articles met with wide and favoring responses from other Republican journals in all parts of the country. Since the distrust and dissatisfaction which have grown up between General Grant and the Republican leaders, nothing more is said on this subject, and it seems to have dropped quite out of the public contemplation. It is now so late in the session that nothing will be done on the subject, and if the salary is not raised before the 4th of March it cannot be raised at all for General Grant's benefit, as the Constitution forbids any increase of the President's compensation during his term.

Why does not the Times revive and revamp its arguments, and press them home upon Congress before it is too late? If they were sound in December, they can have lost nothing of their force. If the subject was worth the strenuous, persistent urgency which was displayed then, the Times and its numerous coadjutors in this movement ought not to desert a good cause. But we shall probably hear no more of it. Before General Grant had begun to lose favor with the Republicans, it was a popular thing to advocate; but Congress would no more think of increasing his salary now than they would that of Horatio Seymour if he had been elected. Congress has done no one thing this winter which General Grant has recommended, or which he would naturally like to have done. He recommended the transfer of Indian affairs to the War Department, and his recommendation has been slighted. He has not friends enough in the Senate to pass a bill for that purpose, although the Senate is almost unanimously Republican. It is not probable that a repeal could even pass the House, if the bill were now to be proposed for the first time. It passed that branch of Congress early in the session, before the present state of feeling had grown up. On every recent occasion when a speaker in the House has intimated General Grant's approval as a reason for the passage of a bill, he has been rebuked by some member for introducing an irrelevant consideration. Instead of the alacrity to please a new President which one should naturally expect of the party which has just elected him, he is treated with coldness and distrust, and the known wishes are extensively disregarded. Of course, no Republican journal will do so unpopular a thing as to advocate an increase of his salary now.

How to Conquer the Indians.

From the N. Y. Tribune. The time rapidly approaches when we must adopt some new plan for managing the Indians of the Plains—that is, if the massacres which mark every month, week, and even every day of the year are to be suppressed. The necessity for devising a remedy for the Indian difficulties is greater now than it has been in any former period of our history, because, with a large addition to our population, and with the extension of two lines of railroad into the heart of their hunting-grounds, collision between the two races at many points, and often simultaneously, is inevitable. That our troops have learned to converge upon their villages, with great or even little loss, and shoot down or scatter all who oppose, is so far from being a remedy that every victory adds to the Indian's desperation. What this desperation has become, and what is to be its character in the future, may be gathered from the circumstances, if we may trust the accounts, that in the battle in the Valley of the Washita the women and children mingled in the fight—for they were armed; and this was a reason why such were put to death. It will be difficult to find another instance in all our Indian wars—or, indeed, in the wars of any other people, civilized or savage—where the women and children together had become in their despair so desperate as actively to engage in repelling an invader.

So gradually, in a comparative sense, have our encroachments been made, that we do not realize that we have now hemmed the Indians in. Our troops and settlements are upon the Rio Grande; they are in New Mexico, in Arizona, in Utah, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, and Dakota; and the heavy westward waves of permanent immigration crowds from the southern line of Kansas across the Smoky Hill and the Platte to the Upper Missouri. Between this frontier of eager immigrants and the protected settlements of Colorado and Montana is a region in some places less than 400 miles wide, and diminishing at the rate of, perhaps, half a mile a day, within which not only the Indians, but their only means of subsistence—the buffalo—are enclosed. The crossing of this region by the two railroads, and the stations and forts necessary for protecting them, inevitably must interrupt, and in the end stop, the semi-annual migration of the buffaloes between the plains of the South to the plains of British America. Indeed, even last year these causes operated to such an extent that the semi-civilized inhabitants of the Red River country of the North were unable to obtain their usual supplies; and we had them, in early winter, piteous wails of famine from the half-breeds and Canadian voyageurs of that remote country. Accordingly the Indian of the Plains does, or he is preparing to do, what every human being under like circumstances must and only can do—turn and stand at bay.

A victory over the savages leads to settlement only to the extent that they are annihilated, for in no manner does it remove the causes which incited them to robbery and murder, since, after a battle, the same causes still are in operation, and they are unchanged, unless in receiving new aggravations. For when the food by which life is sustained is withdrawn, no matter whether willfully or in the course of progress and improvement, there can be no peace, no redress, nor even what we agree in calling human feelings, until the warrior, his children, and their mother can eat again. The present policy leads to a continued renewal of atrocities, and to converging armies, and finally to extinction; for there is no doubt that we have, or can get, soldiers enough, and we have, or can borrow, money enough, by the help of which every man, woman, and child can be destroyed. If this is to be the settled policy of our Government, and such it will be if the advice of border men is adopted, nothing further need be said, and we may wait with what peace of mind we can until the avenging dethies, not of the savage but of justice and of right, measure unto us as we have measured unto others. But before this policy is adopted, let us consider whether there is not a more humane, or easier, or what would seem most important of all, a cheaper way.

In considering the Indian question we must bear in mind that we deal with men, and with a race compacted by a social unity. The Indian race has never passed out of the savage state; and although efforts have been made from the first settlement of the country to induce them to adopt the habits of a civilized life, and although many good men have devoted their learning, their energies, and even their lives to this object, they have failed. They failed for the reason that they did not consider that man progresses by short advances, never by including in one advance and in one age the aggregate of advances which have marked through many ages the progress of the Caucasian race. The first advance which man makes from the savage state is into the pastoral, and it will be in vain to attempt to bring him into the civilized, or even into the barbaric, until he has been prepared by the pastoral. This view is so obvious that, perhaps, it would have been seen long ago, had not one class of such writers as mould public opinion declaimed upon the happiness of the savage state, and another class ascribed to the red man poetic and other fine qualities, which they best acquainted with him never have been able to locate. The proper way, then, to settle the Indian question is to set apart reservations supplied with the means for their leading a pastoral life. Almost in this present age the Indian has made an approach to this state by domesticating one animal, which is the horse, in the management of which he shows judgment and skill, and now, with this basis, no interval remains in an advancement to the care of cattle. That this is the natural order of progress has been demonstrated by the Creeks and Cherokees in the Indian territory west of Arkansas, where, without special assistance from the Government to this end, they voluntarily and naturally entered upon this life. Alot, therefore, districts within our vast Western domain, suited for grazing, with water and timber, where villages naturally will be established, and here, by proper management, and of course with Government care, flocks and herds will multiply, and in a few years these people will become self-supporting. As to the adjuncts hitherto deemed important—that is, schools and missionaries—there may be a few, but it will be convenient not to attempt too much.

There is another branch of this subject of still greater importance. From unknown ages the Indian woman, and the women of all savage people, have cultivated the soil while the men roamed about in the forest. Of course, this is founded in the depths of her being. In one sense the woman is primary, for she is the mother; upon her, more directly, depend the sentiments and the intellectual bias of the race; and in particular do her instincts impel her to provide food for her offspring; while the man is removed to a secondary place, and becomes the guardian and protector of that which she brings forth. The flesh of animals cannot, from day to day, be the most acceptable food for a child, while in case of illness, to which it must more or less be subject, it will be loathsome, nor can spontaneous vegetable productions be found except during brief periods of the year, and then only by chance. Hence the savage woman would seek by every art which love for her children could suggest to increase in quantity and in variety their daily food, and in particular to make the soil near her lodge bear it; and she must have discovered early that cultivation, rude though it was, largely added to the harvest. From these impulsive labors of hers to make more certain, and more grateful, the food necessary for her children, and, in connection, to provide them with garments to shield them from the cold of winter, the first dawn of civilization must be traced. While the man clings to the uncertain life of the hunter, she looks to the gentler and a better life. These, and analogous reasons, show that the heart of woman everywhere, and always, leads the way to higher conditions.

While our Indian hunters or warriors of the Plains could, with scarcely a change, enter upon a pastoral life, their women would be contented and happy in their gardens and corn-fields. It is to be lamented that the education of the young women of New England, and of other sections, by which they were made fitted to become the wives of farmers, did not include the practical knowledge of the growth of plants as to prepare them to enter upon the household work of teaching Indian and savage women how to bud and graft, and to acquire by cultivation a taste for flowers. Still, there are some few women who, in connection with cultivated minds, do possess these requirements, and if sought they can be found. Thus the sexes of the race which, in the progress of events, have become a deadly enemy, may, with no other change than what shall come in a natural order, be transformed into our friends; and, unfortunately, by reason of being compelled to compete with our civilization, as well as with our vices, they are destined not to be perpetuated long, a pleasing duty will

have been done in proving to them that we, the inheritors of their vast possessions, were not wholly unworthy.

But we will be told by the hopeless—and certainly by those most interested in telling it—that a new measure will bring in new men, who, because they are men, will plunder the Government and defraud the Indians, and therefore things had best remain as they are. We dissent wholly from this conclusion, because we have a living faith that with the incoming administration it will not be taken for granted that because men have spent their lives in seeking office they are therefore qualified to fill it; but that, on the contrary, an attempt will be made to ascertain whether our progress in Christianity and civilization has not produced men who can be trusted. We would go back still farther, and this in view of the unfaithfulness and incompetence of so many politicians, and say that the first thing to ascertain will be whether a man is really incompetent; for if we find a competent man, we find also one who, during the days of his apprenticeship, learned, as a part of his acquirements, that in the long run the most money is made by being honest.

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